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POPULATION AND ECONOMY UPDATE



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FOREWORD

This report is an update of the Morehead City Population and Economy Study published in March, 1969. The primary purpose for the updating of this study is to provide more current information to the planning board and local officials. The contents of this study will also be of interest to business and industrial leaders as well as the citizens of Morehead City.

The sources used for this study include the 1970 U. S. Census, North Carolina Employment Security Commission, and information gathered from personal interviews. This study will include an analysis of such characteristics of the Town's population as: age, sex composition, race, education, income, and housing. The population is projected to 1990 based on current conditions and trends of the past. Trends in employment, retail sales, and other economic activities are analyzed.

POPULATION

The chart on page 4 shows population changes for Morehead City, Morehead Township, and Carteret County for the past forty years. It should be noted that a locality increases its population by one of the following methods: natural increase, annexation, or in-migration. Natural decrease or out-migration account for a locality's loss of population.

As shown on Chart 1, Morehead City gained population from 1930 until 1960, however the 1970 Census showed a 6.3 percent decrease.* Morehead Township and Carteret County increased in population during this period. This data shows that Morehead City lost population due to out-migration to the Township and County. This out-migration pattern can be seen in Chart 2, which shows that Morehead City, during the period from 1960 to 1970, gained population only in the 15 year old to 24 year old age group and the 50 year old and older group. A total loss of 350 people was recorded for this time period. During this same period, Carteret County increased its population by 4,165 gaining population in certain age groups from 5 years old thru 34 years old and 40 years old and older. This increase within the County was 15.2 percent which compares to an average of 11.5 for the State of North Carolina, 13.3 percent for the U.S. Region P's average increase was only 5.8 percent.

Morehead Township increased its population during the 1960's by 18.6 percent going from 10,054 population to 11,929 population. The evidence would imply that Carteret County and Morehead Township benefitted from this out-migration. Through migration, Carteret County increased its population by

*Between 1950 and 1960 Morehead City annexed an area containing 613 people. Had the area not been annexed, Morehead City's population in 1960 would have been 4,970, 3 percent lower than in 1950.

665 people or 2.4 percent. The average increase or loss for other areas included - 13.1% for Region "P", -2.9 percent for State of North Carolina, and 1.7 percent for the U.S. For example, Morehead City gained 214 people over 45

An examination of Chart #2 indicates that Morehead City during the 1960's lost 796 people in the 0-14 year old age group and 25-50 year old age groups while Carteret County gained six people in these same groups. There seems to be a general trend of out-migration then throughout the Town and County for these age groups. Morehead City lost males and females in these age groups while the County primarily lost males in the 25-40 age group with females declining in the 35-39 age group. The County and Town are also faced with a declining birth rate that would account in part for the losses in the under 5 age category. Changes in the County due to natural increase was 12.7 percent or 3,500 people. This rate does not compare favorably to Region "P" with 18.9% or North Carolina with 14.4 percent but is still better than the national average of 11.6. north of Morehead City are now a dependent urban fringe and

Carteret County lost 1,354 people between the ages of 15 and 19, 20 and 24, 30 and 34, and 35 to 39 in the 1960-1970 decade. This number may or may not include the 796 people that left Morehead City. Those that left Morehead City may have moved into the fringe area or out of the County entirely. Where these people moved is not as important as the fact that the Town and County are now deprived of these young employables. A majority of those that migrated out of the County and Town were young males. The County and Town in order to reverse this trend must provide more job opportunities. The trend of out-migration by young males appeared in the 1950-1960 decade, continued this past decade and will unfortunately continue during the present decade. In 1963, 41.6% of young people graduating from High School entered the labor market in Carteret County. By 1971, this figure dropped to 28.7%. Hopefully,

these young people will return to Morehead City and Carteret County to retire. The area is now a retirement area and evidence seems to indicate an elderly population is developing, for example; Morehead City gained 214 people over 45 years old, more than it had in 1960 and the County gained 1,800 people over 40 years of age.

Morehead City accounts for 44 percent of the total population of Morehead Township. The ability of Morehead City to maintain this percentage will be determined in large part by the Town's annexation policy. In the State of North Carolina, a Town's functional limits usually extend beyond its corporate limits. Many North Carolina cities need frequent review of their corporate boundaries to insure that their legal boundaries bear a reasonable relationship to their functional, economic or service boundaries. If the Town adopts an aggressive annexation policy, then the ratio could be high; however, if a weak policy is instituted, then the ratio will continue to decline. The areas to the west and north of Morehead City are now a dependent urban fringe and it is into these areas that Morehead City must expand.

The people in this urban fringe are currently included in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the Town of Morehead City and in the future will demand urban type services. The annexation of this urban fringe area would increase Morehead City's population by approximately 1,500 - 2,000 people.

CHART 1 POPULATION AND GROWTH RATE

	1930	1940	Percent Increase	1950	Percent Increase	1960	Percent Increase	1970	Percent Increase
Morehead City	3,483	3,695	+6	5,144	+39	5,583	+9	5,233	- 6.3
Morehead Township	5,018	4,893	-3	8,299	+70	10,054	+21	11,929	+18.6
Carteret County	16,900	18,248	+8	23,059	+26	27,438	+19	31,603	+15.2

SOURCE: U. S. Census

MIGRATION TRENDS AND AGE-SEX DISTRIBUTION

Morehead City	Under 5	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75+
Male																
1960	291	318	282	207	136	139	166	191	205	201	132	113	100	77	56	59
1970	192	249	240	264	224	132	127	124	157	166	133	136	110	98	65	71
Change	- 99	- 69	- 42	+ 57	+ 88	- 7	- 39	- 67	- 48	- 35	+ 1	+ 23	+ 10	+ 21	+ 9	+ 12
Female																
1960	299	296	271	231	180	157	184	222	210	201	151	114	124	102	83	85
1970	215	227	244	270	177	152	131	137	159	185	182	166	140	111	120	129
Change	- 84	- 69	- 27	+ 39	- 3	- 5	- 53	- 85	- 51	- 16	+ 31	+ 52	+ 16	+ 9	+ 37	+ 44
Total																
1960	590	614	553	438	316	296	350	413	415	402	283	227	224	179	139	144
1970	407	476	484	534	401	284	258	261	316	351	315	302	250	209	185	200
Total Change	- 183	- 138	- 69	+ 96	+ 85	- 12	- 92	- 152	- 99	+ 32	+ 32	+ 75	+ 26	+ 30	+ 46	+ 56
Total Net Change																-350
Carteret County	Under 5	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75+
Male																
1960	1149	1104	1199	1538	1985	990	1052	941	702	562	447	358	314	255	192	216
1970	1044	1131	1274	1031	1057	847	697	641	727	710	596	501	395	328	251	259
Change	- 105	+ 27	+ 75	- 507	- 928	- 143	- 355	- 300	+ 25	+ 148	+ 149	+ 143	+ 81	+ 73	+ 59	+ 43
Female																
1960	1087	1025	990	744	604	638	658	693	579	519	471	411	310	267	202	233
1970	980	1132	1101	1020	1020	794	705	690	726	695	559	530	524	394	270	373
Change	- 107	+ 107	+ 111	+ 276	+ 416	+ 156	+ 47	- 3	+ 147	+ 176	+ 88	+ 119	+ 214	+ 127	+ 68	+ 140
Total																
1960	2236	2129	2189	2282	2589	1628	1710	1634	1281	1081	918	769	624	522	394	449
1970	2024	2263	2375	2051	2077	1641	1402	1331	1453	1405	1155	1031	919	722	521	632
Total Change	- 212	+ 134	+ 186	- 231	- 512	+ 13	- 308	- 303	+ 172	+ 324	+ 237	+ 262	+ 295	+ 200	+ 127	+ 183
Total Net Change																+1567

CURRENT POPULATION

Morehead City has a total population of 5,233 people according to the 1970 Census. This was a 6.3 percent loss from 1960 when the total population was 5,583. The Town's population is composed of 2,488 males (47.5%) and 2,745 females (52.5%). Of the total population of Morehead City, 1,013 or 19 percent is Negro. This compares to Morehead Township which has a total population of 11,929 people with 5,824 males (49%) and 6,105 females (51%). Caucasians comprise 10,581 while 1,315 people or 11 percent are Negro. Carteret County has the same basic ratio with 11 percent Negro (3,517 people) and 49 percent (15,571 people) male and 51 percent (16,032 people) female out of a total population of 31,603. Morehead City then finds itself with more females and Negroes, percentage wise, than either the County or Township.

The following information on the distribution of population by age, sex, race, education and housing comes from the 1970 U. S. Census, Housing Element, and Annexation Study.

Age

Morehead City's age distribution is similar to other towns in Eastern North Carolina where out-migration is a problem. The only female age group to gain in population below the 50-54 age group was the 15-19 year age group and this increase was only 39 people. The male age groups lost population in all age groups except the 15-19 and 20-24 age groups below 50 years of age. Then increases were nominal.

CHART 3 SELECTED AGE GROUP PERCENTAGES

	Under 18 Yrs. of Age	18 Yrs. of Age to 64 Yrs. of Age	65 Yrs. of Age and Over
Morehead City	32.5%	56.1%	11.4%
Carteret Co.	33.8%	57%	9.2%
State	34.6%	57.2%	8%

SOURCE: U. S. Census

Chart 3 shows that Morehead City falls below the State average and County average in all categories except the 65 year old and older age group. Morehead lost 294 people in the under 18 year old age group during the 1960's, 188 in the 18 year old to 64 year old age group and gained 132 in the 65 year old and above group. Carteret County remained about the same losing only 87 in the first category, 50 in the second, and gaining 685 in the last category. These figures indicate that there is a decline, in Morehead City, of women of a childbearing age. The primary labor force is also reduced by the departure of so many young males. The young workers and marrieds are locating elsewhere in the County and State or Nation.

Sex

Chart 4 Male-Female Percentage

Morehead City	1960	1970	State	1960	1970
Female	52.2	52.5	Female	50.7	51.1
Male	47.8	47.5	Male	49.3	48.9

SOURCE: U. S. Census

The male population of Morehead City continues to be basically the same as it was in 1960, about 2 percent below the State ratio of 48.9 percent. The female population shows a higher percentage ratio than the State; however, female population, like the male population, declined in Morehead City over the past ten years. The only increase in population for both females and males was in the 15-19 year age group and 50+. Males increased also in the 20-24 age group. Morehead City's largest increase for both sexes came in the 50 year and older groups. Morehead City is becoming a town with an older population.

These facts are accounted for due to out-migration and declining birth rate. Simply stated, the young people are marrying and moving out of town to live and build or buy houses. Residential developments are increasing in the area but they are outside the corporate limits.

Race

As the chart below indicates, Morehead City experienced a loss of Caucasians during the 1960's and gained a small percentage of Negroes. This trend continued in Morehead Township but reversed itself in the County. Morehead had a total of 4,615 Caucasians and 967 Negroes in 1960, compared to 4,204 Caucasians and 1,013 Negroes in 1970. The largest increase of Negroes seems to be in the Morehead Township where an 8.6 increase occurred. This would indicate that people are leaving Morehead City for the urban fringe area. Overall, there is a small increase of Caucasians in the County and a small decline in Negroes.

CHART 5 CAUCASIAN-NEGRO PERCENTAGES

Location	Percent 1960	Caucasian 1970	Percent 1960	Negro 1970
Morehead City	82.6	80.6	17.3	19
Morehead Township	88.7	80.3	10.7	19.3
Carteret County	87.6	88.9	12.4	11

SOURCE: U. S. Census

Education

In 1970, the educational level attained by the population of Morehead City was 11.7 years, measured by the median grade completed. Carteret County's median grade level completed was 10.8 while North Carolina's was 10.6. These figures compare to Beaufort with 11.1 and Havelock with 12.4.

CHART 6 EDUCATION LEVELS IN MOREHEAD CITY AND CARTERET COUNTY FOR PERSONS TWENTY-FIVE AND OVER

Morehead City			Carteret County		
	Number	%		Number	%
Twenty-five & Over	2928		Twenty-five & Over	17,182	
No Education	49	1	No Education	234	1
Elementary 1-4	119	4	Elementary 1-4	855	5
5-7	465	16+	5-7	3,092	18
8	251	<u>9</u>	8	1,531	<u>9</u>
		29			32
High School 1-3	655	22	High School 1-3	4,549	27
4	717	<u>24</u>	4	4,342	<u>25</u>
		46			52
College 1-3	425	15+	College 1-3	1,521	9
4+	247	<u>9</u>	4+	1,058	<u>6</u>
		24			15
Median Grade Completed: 11.7			Median Grade Completed: 10.8		
*Table 117 PC(1) C35NC			*Table 120 Gen. Social & Economic Characteristics PC(1) C35		

SOURCE: U. S. Census 1970

As the chart above indicates, forty-six percent of Morehead City's population have attended at least one year of high school and 24 percent completed all four years. Twenty-four percent of these people 25 years old and older attended at least one year of college with nine percent going on to graduate and/or attend graduate schools.

Income

The economy of an area is reflected in large part upon the family income distribution. The per capita income of Morehead City residents is \$2,548 while Carteret County's is \$2,407 as shown on Chart 6. Both of these are below urban North Carolina which has a per capita income of \$2,877. Morehead City ranks above the County, however, in both median and mean income levels. Morehead City's mean income* level is \$8,756 while the County's level is \$8,220; the median income level for Morehead City is \$7,188 while the County's level is \$7,156. See Chart 7 on Resident Income. Carteret County and Morehead City are very similar in the percentages in the family distribution of income. Also the percent of all families that make less than the federal poverty level** is quite close. Morehead City's percentage is 16.9, while the County's is 16.6.

*Mean Income - mean family income is obtained by dividing the total family income by the total number of families.

**Poverty Level - the poverty level index provides a range of poverty income cutoffs adjusted by such factors as family size, sex of the family head, number of children under 18 years of age, and farm and nonfarm residence. The poverty income cutoffs are revised annually to adjust for changes in the cost of living as reflected in the Consumer Price Index and the index allows for differences in the cost of living for farm and nonfarm families.

SOURCE: U. S. Bureau of Census - Current Population Reports

CHART 7 FAMILY INCOME DISTRIBUTION

	Morehead City		Carteret Co.		Urban North Carolina	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
All Families	1,350	100	8,477	100	568,574	
less than \$11,000	14	1	283	1	15,106	3
1,000 - 1,999	84	6	481	6	23,096	4
2,000 - 2,999	116	9	599	7	27,480	5
3,000 - 3,999	88	7	550	7	32,713	6
4,000 - 4,999	113	8	657	8	37,016	7
5,000 - 5,999	136	10	882	10	41,570	7
6,000 - 6,999	103	8	684	8	41,636	7
7,000 - 7,999	112	8	658	8	41,460	7
8,000 - 8,999	82	6	561	7	41,179	7
9,000 - 9,999	93	7	565	6	38,362	7
10,000 - 11,999	122	9	856	10	69,067	12
12,000 - 14,999	151	11	862	10	68,225	12
15,000 - 24,999	93	7	691	8	68,555	12
25,000 - 49,999	28	2	129	1	18,181	3
50,000 or more	15	1	19	1	4,428	1
Median Income	7,188		7,156		8,588	
Mean Income	8,756		8,220		10,043	
Per Capita Income	2,548		2,407		2,877	
% of All Families less than poverty level	16.9		16.6			

SOURCE: U. S. Census

Housing

The 1970 Census reports that there is a total of 1,967 dwellings in the Town of Morehead City. The census data indicates that 6.886 percent or 135 houses in Morehead City have incomplete plumbing and that .849 percent or 16.7 houses in Morehead City have no flush toilets. Among the Negro housing in Morehead City, 24.041 percent have incomplete plumbing. This compares to the County where out of a total of 11,175 all year round housing units, 1,219 or 11 percent have no bathrooms.

There is, in Morehead City, a large number of deteriorating houses that are in need of immediate repair. Approximately thirty (30) percent of the 1967 houses or 588 houses are involved. A vast majority of these houses are concentrated generally in the area north of Bridges Street, south of Calico Creek and between 8th and 17th Streets. Many of these homes are old and have not been kept in good repair. The age of many houses in Morehead City is evidenced by the fact that 733 houses now in Town were constructed before 1939 and a total of 578 were constructed during the 1950's.

Morehead City has recognized that it is facing a definite problem in housing. The Town is composed primarily of older houses, many in disrepair, and there have been few new houses started inside of the town limits. The reasons for this situation have been mentioned before; out-migration of the young and no new land inside of Town on which to build. The Town is making a definite attempt to correct this situation by the hiring of a full-time Building Inspector and the adoption of new subdivision regulations. The Town is now enforcing Building, Plumbing and Electrical Codes. The creation of a Building Inspection Department, it is hoped, will facilitate the adoption of a Minimum Housing Code. Such a code would enable the Building Inspector to inspect and bring into compliance all substandard housing in Morehead City.

PROJECTED POPULATION

The projection of any small community's future population is a complicated process that may be invalidated by any number of variables. The final suggested figure is at best a calculated approximation. The variables that may influence a projection would include out-migration, the annexation policy of the community, and the addition or loss of an industry. The addition of a new industry with a work force of 100 people would increase a community's population by 359 people.* These variables cannot be precisely planned for, therefore projections are not guaranteed to be correct.

The projections prepared for the original Population and Economy Study have proven to be basically reliable. It is true that the 1970 figure for Morehead City was projected to be 5,800 and the Town actually lost population and ended up with a population total of 5,233 people, however, the figures projected for Morehead Township and Carteret County were basically correct. The variable of the Town's annexation policy and out-migration trend accounted for this loss and the discrepancy between the estimate and the actual situation. With the town's recent actions such as up-grading water and sewer facilities, assuming the one-mile extraterritorial area, hiring of a building inspector, and adoption of new zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations, a more aggressive annexation policy will result. Therefore the projections made in the original Population and Economy Study will be substantially correct.

*U. S. Department of Commerce

Morehead City's population is projected to be 6,000 in 1980 and 7,100 in 1990.* (See Chart 8.) If Morehead City expands and if Carteret County continues to grow at its present rate, these projections will prove to be accurate. The projections were made by determining what percentage of the County's population resided in Morehead Township. It was then determined that this percentage would remain constant over the next ten years. This same procedure was used to project Morehead City's population.

CHART 8 PROJECT POPULATION

	1970	Percent Increase	1980	Percent Increase	1990	Percent Increase
Morehead City	5,800	+4	6,000	+4	7,100	18
Morehead Town.	11,900	18.6	14,000	18	16,500	18
Carteret Co.	32,000	17	37,800	18	45,000	18

SOURCE: U. S. Census
Population and Economy Study, Morehead City, 1969

The 1970 census records that the projections made in 1969 in the original Population and Economy Study were incorrect in the projection made for Morehead City in 1970. It was projected that the Town would have a population of 5,800 people or a +4 percent increase. The Town actually declined -6.3 percent. It should be noted, however, that the projections for Morehead Township and Carteret County were correct.

*The variable that covered this miscalculation, small in reality, was the annexation policy of Morehead City and out-migration. The Town must have a more aggressive policy on annexation and jobs to keep young people in Town. With a movement now toward such policies, the original projects should be valid.

This section of the Population and Economy Update focuses on the economy of Morehead City and the surrounding area. Much of the data in this portion will concern Carteret County, of which Morehead City is the largest town. Data on a county level is more significant and has more validity than information for a smaller unit of government.

As indicated in the original Population and Economy Study, the primary objectives of Morehead City in this field have been:

- to obtain low density, high value added manufacturing industries.
- prospective, long term growth industries such as instruments and research industries should be promoted. Especially those industries that specialize in ocean research.
- the Morehead City Port should be expanded.
- the tourist industry should be promoted and expanded.
- efforts should be made to provide services for military personnel at nearby military installations, but not allow the Town ever to become dependent upon revenue generated from these sources.

Morehead City is a retail center for Carteret County as well as a tourist center for the State of North Carolina. In order to ascertain what the state of Morehead City's economy is this section will endeavor to analyze the labor force and employment problems of Morehead City-Carteret County. Items to be considered will be trends in employment, occupations, seasonal employment, and unemployment. A stable economy includes a small unemployment percentage combined with a high percentage of people in the labor force. The standard of living in Morehead City, as in any community, is in a large part dependent upon the income level of its citizens. Better paying jobs, therefore, are necessary to a viable thriving community.

Labor

The mainstay of a community and its economy is the civilian work force.* Carteret County, in 1966, had a civilian work force of 9,080 people and this number increased in 1971 to include 10,190 people. Of this total number, 9,590 were employed and 600 or 5.9 percent were unemployed. The quarters having the highest concentration of total employment were the second and third quarters. This would include the spring and summer which is the tourist season for Morehead City and Carteret County. The first and fourth quarters of the winter had the highest rate of unemployment ranging from 8.1 percent the first quarter to 6.0 percent the fourth. The average annual unemployment rate in North Carolina was 3.9 percent in 1971 and the National rate was 6.0 percent. Carteret County's unemployment rate then was below the National average, but higher than the State average. The unemployment rate of 5.9 percent is accounted for in part due to the seasonal nature of the tourist business in Morehead City and the County. Carteret County and Morehead City do not have a large number of skilled workers present in the labor force due to the fact that there are not many high paying industries located in the area. Most of the skilled workers that do reside in the County work at Cherry Point or are retired people.

*The civilian work force includes all persons 14 years old or older who are not in the armed forces and are either employed or able and available for work and are looking for work.

CHART 9 CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

	1966	1968	1971	% Unemployed		
				1966	1968	1971
Carteret Co.	9,080	9,450	10,190	7.0	6.5	5.9
N.C. Rate of Unemployment				3.2	3.2	3.9

SOURCE: N. C. Employment Security Commission

CHART 10 CIVILIAN WORK FORCE 1971

	Civilian Work Force 1971				
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Average Annual
Carteret Co. Work Force	9,440	10,440	11,030	9,850	10,190
Carteret Co. % of Unemployed	8.1	5.6	4.4	6.0	5.9
N.C. Rate of Unemployment	4.3	4.4	3.9	3.0	3.9

SOURCE: N. C. Employment Security Commission

Occupational Structure

A general breakdown of the types of occupations existing in Carteret County is shown in Chart 11. This chart indicates that there has been a small decline in the number of people that work in manufacturing and a decided increase in the number that work in non-manufacturing. Agriculture has taken a sharp drop since 1962. Automation and mechanization has accounted, in some part, for the drop in the number of agricultural workers. The increase in population in the County plus migration has helped bring about the smaller number involved in manufacturing. Trade, service, and government are the big employers of the non-manufacturing portion of the labor force. Morehead City and Carteret County has many government facilities, especially those involved in the marine services. Cherry

Point employs a large number of Carteret County's workers. The base presently hires approximately 4,325 people of which a majority live in Craven and Carteret Counties.

The weekly wages paid by an occupation or industry help decide the number of people that will be interested in pursuing employment in that particular field. According to information contained in Chart 12, the highest classified paying occupation on a weekly basis would be Transportation, Communications and Utilities followed by Manufacturing.

CHART 11 NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED BY OCCUPATION

	<u>1962</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1971</u>
Civilian Work Force	7,410	9,450	10,190
Total Employment	6,600	8,840	9,590
Manufacturing	1,100	1,440	1,430
Non-manufacturing	3,430	4,830	5,510*
Agriculture	610	350	330
Total Unemployment	810	610	600
Unemployment Rate	10.9	6.5	5.9

SOURCE: Employment Security Commission of North Carolina

CHART 12 AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES PER SELECTED INDUSTRY GROUP*

FOURTH QUARTER - 1971

	TOTAL	CONSTRUCTION	MANUFACTURING	TRANS., COMM., UTILITIES	TRADE	FIN., INS., REAL EST.	SERVICE	OTHER
N. C.	\$127.90	\$139.56	\$126.60	\$168.84	\$118.84	\$147.62	\$107.23	\$132.26
REGION "P"	110.81	127.18	114.13	128.81	101.68	131.67	86.51	95.22
CARTERET CO.	96.59	101.01	103.50	127.30	91.23	108.74	61.43	149.32

*Average weekly wage data from the weekly average of total wage payments divided by average monthly employment, thus reflecting irregular and partial work schedules, season employment, etc. Data should not be confused with actual average weekly pay rates for a standard workweek.

SOURCE: Employment Security Commission of North Carolina

Unemployment

The criteria used to measure the strength of an area's economy most often is the unemployment rate. Employment opportunities are not available if a large number of unemployed people are present. Unemployment statistics for the County, State, and Nation are contained in Charts 9, 10, and 13. Carteret County, according to Chart 1, has had a declining unemployment rate since 1966. The County has a higher unemployment rate than the State especially during the first and fourth quarters. In order to obtain a clearer picture of the unemployment rate in surrounding counties, Chart 13 lists those statistics and indicates that Carteret County's unemployment rate is lower than Jones and Pamlico in 1971, but still higher than the State figure.

CHART 13 UNEMPLOYMENT BY COUNTIES

	1971		1970		1969		1968		1967	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Carteret County	600	5.9	520	5.1	430	4.5	610	6.5	600	6.6
Craven County	1,130	5.1	1,100	4.8	910	4.1	800	3.7	860	4.1
Jones County	250	8.5	200	6.9	80	3.2	80	3.2	90	3.5
Onslow County	1,170	5.6	1,190	5.9	1,060	5.6	980	5.3	910	5.1
Pamlico County	210	8.6	290	12.1	150	6.8	130	6.2	160	7.3
North Carolina	90,500	3.9	86,100	3.8	64,600	2.9	67,600	3.2	70,900	3.4

SOURCE: U. S. Census

Business

Morehead City, being the largest town in Carteret County, is the retail trade center for the County. A majority of retail establishments and sales are located within Morehead City as evidenced by Charts 14 and 17. The Town serves not only as a trading center for the County residents but as a tourist center for the many visitors that travel to the coast each year. Retail sales for Carteret County have increased substantially over the past six years as shown below:

CHART 14 GROSS RETAIL SALES FOR CARTERET COUNTY

1965	\$38,419,979.00
1968	\$50,268,094.00
1971	\$69,589,393.00

SOURCE: N. C. Department of Revenue

Unpublished figures indicate that the County's gross retail sales for the month of June 1973 were \$9,984,957, while Morehead City's were approximately fifty percent of this total with \$4,878,460.

Another indicator of the thriving retail trade in Morehead City and Carteret County is the growing number of tourist dollars now being spent in the County. The chart listed below shows an increase in tourist money spent.

CHART 15 TRAVEL EXPENDITURES

1963	\$4,329,000
1969	\$6,317,000
1970	\$7,020,000
1971	\$7,390,000

SOURCE: Census of Business

This rise in tourism is also evidenced by the construction boom now taking place within the County to provide homes, apartments, condominiums, and motel-hotels for these people. Industry has also been keeping pace by expansion and addition as shown below:

CHART 16 INDUSTRY - CAPITAL INVESTMENT

	<u>New</u>	<u>Expanded</u>
1960-1964	\$ 592,000	\$ 598,000
1965-1969	\$3,095,000	\$1,640,000
1970-1971	<u>\$ 160,000</u>	<u>\$ 500,000</u>
	\$3,847,000	\$2,738,000

SOURCE: Census of Business

These figures indicate that the period from 1965-1969 was the period when Carteret County obtained its most impressive economic growth industry-wise. This increase in industry growth was also instrumental in raising for the average worker a higher weekly wage which rose from \$55.69 in 1963 to \$89.80 in 1971.

CHART 17 TYPES OF BUSINESS

	Carteret Co.	Morehead City	Remainder of County
Building materials, hardware and farm equipment	14	7	6
General Merchandise	11	4	6
Food Stores	80	18	48
Automobile Dealers	15	6	6
Gasoline Stations	61	17	31
Eating & drinking places	58	26	29
Drug Stores and Pro- prietary stores	6	3	1
Nonstore Retailers	12	5	6

SOURCE: Census of Business

Governmental Influence on Economy

Morehead City and Carteret County have a high percentage of their labor force in civil service. This illustrates the importance of governmental activities on the area's economy. The State has many agencies with offices in Morehead City and Carteret County. The primary source of civil service employment is Cherry Point Marine Base. Approximately forty percent of the 4,000+ civilian work force on the base live in Carteret County.

The Morehead State Port facilities have increased in size and activities since 1961. There are indications that the State Port facility in Morehead City will continue to expand as it has throughout the 1960's. Private companies, such as Texas Gulf Sulphur Company are also increasing their facilities at the State Port. The number of ships calling at the Morehead City port

remains at the 216-259 level for 1972 and 1971. This figure is lower than the high of the mid 1960's, but these were accounted for in part by the Viet Nam War and the large number of military vessels. The number of military vessels has declined since the mid 1960's. The number of barges and trucks has increased significantly. The value of cargo passing through the Morehead City port has increased to \$1,164,697.18.

Basic problems continue to plague the State Port Facility at Morehead; the primary one being the loss of revenue during the past fiscal year. It is estimated that the loss for this fiscal year 1972-1973 will be \$777,692 (this includes the State Ports Authority and phosphate facility). The reasons for the decline in profits or revenues over the past few years include among others:

1. The lack of regular steamship service since 1967 - the lack of this service makes it difficult if not impossible for people in the exporting-importing business to make permanent commitments to the port.
2. Location of Morehead City - The State Port Facility at Morehead City is located in the extreme eastern area of the State some distance from the piedmont cities where industry is more prevalent. There is a lack of interstate - 4 lane roads connecting the area to these industrial areas.
3. Charges for services such as mooring-unmooring are high at Morehead City.
4. Losses due to the decline in the world market for phosphates and the location of the phosphate bulk building constructed at Morehead City.
5. Public Relations - Morehead City has many problems and there has been no effective campaign to attract business to the port in order to reverse the downward trend.
6. Container Shipments - The tobacco industry, the major source of Morehead City's exports, is moving to containerization and Morehead City will suffer due to the lack of necessary equipment and the fact that other nearby ports are already prepared for this eventuality.

The N. C. State Port Authority and the Department of Transportation have concluded extensive studies of the State ports and will soon release recommendations to the N. C. State Legislature. There is also renewed interest in Morehead City evidenced by the recent announcement that a steamship line will make Morehead a regular port of call. Speculation is also present concerning the location of oil refineries and related facilities in the general location of Morehead City and Carteret County.

Emphasis should be placed on the continued growth and development of this State facility. The creation of a Morehead City State Ports Director Post would provide a means whereby more recognition could be obtained. Such a position would allow the port to function on an equal basis with the port at Wilmington.

CHART 18 NORTH CAROLINA STATE PORTS TERMINAL

MOREHEAD CITY, NORTH CAROLINA

<u>Year</u>	<u>Mil.</u>	<u>No. of Ships</u> <u>Gen.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>No. Barges</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>Rail Cars</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>Trucks</u>
1952	140	51	191		N/R	N/R
1953	161	51	212		N/R	N/R
1954	173	57	230		N/R	N/R
1955	151	51	202		N/R	N/R
1956	61	79	140		N/R	N/R
1957	61	98	159		N/R	N/R
1958	75	129	204		849	1,997
1959	58	162	220		907	3,146
1960	82	169	251		899	3,106
1961	112	225	337		1,141	3,091
1962	120	197	317		1,090	4,503
1963	51	238	289		1,656	3,777
1964	101	248	349		1,832	4,179
1965	74	258	332		2,257	4,599
1966	69	264	333		2,391	10,920
1967	44	181	225		2,222	5,420
1968	52	195	247	59	2,724	5,216
1969			260	183	2,481	9,319
1970	53	233	286	239	3,272	6,944
1971	37	179	216	203	2,530	5,095
1972	51	208	259	207	1,916	8,301

Source: North Carolina State Ports Authority

CHART 19 NORTH CAROLINA STATE PORTS TERMINAL

MOREHEAD CITY, NORTH CAROLINA

<u>Year</u>	<u>Import</u>	<u>Export</u>	<u>Asphalt & Petroleum</u>	<u>Military</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
1952	-0-	-0-	366,817.40	37,222.70	404,040.10
1953	21,347.80	11,299.10	404,505.22	87,954.23	525,106.35
1954	1,456.10	10,952.37	347,865.07	210,904.56	517,178.10
1955	1,500.00	16,693.38	279,959.66	187,143.58	485,296.62
1956	-0-	56,418.89	261,041.95	93,622.96	411,083.80
1957	1,987.14	49,384.42	265,031.23	93,203.25	409,606.04
1958	194.61	65,119.40	288,839.91	133,523.18	487,677.10
1959	4,883.60	92,772.02	280,638.14	69,571.29	447,865.05
1960	7,093.40	100,668.06	274,619.32	125,223.34	507,604.12
1961	6,968.04	105,693.12	250,619.67	131,897.62	545,178.45
1962	4,093.89	97,208.85	171,470.43	147,687.54	420,460.71
1963	16,369.56	103,975.22	171,324.86	50,480.70	342,150.34
1964	10,019.24	118,062.97	171,779.83	118,850.71	418,712.75
1965	5,758.07	149,027.77	265,489.36	63,195.25	483,470.45
1966	7,246.88	131,370.45	239,904.90	42,211.43	420,733.66
1967	13,718.41	118,545.48	194,918.74	38,558.98	364,741.61
1968	138,564.99	202,430.20	204,923.70	31,226.11	577,145.00
1969	378,360.39	437,749.26	227,549.95	29,035.12	1,072,694.71
1970	418,927.58	587,264.70	303,202.69	17,811.98	1,327,206.95
1971	374,621.08	472,922.05	291,104.71	7,985.45	1,146,638.29
1972	643,256.80	512,721.68	243,056.23	8,159.17	1,164,697.18

SOURCE: North Carolina State Ports Authority

Summary

This section of the Population and Economy Update is a brief summary of the more important data contained in this report. Items of major concern to Morehead City include among others:

1. Morehead City from 1960 until 1970 had a decline of 6.3 percent in its total population. Young males made up the largest segment of this loss in population. Older residents increased in number. Caucasians decreased in population and Negroes increased slightly during this period. Out-migration was the primary cause of the losses in population. Morehead City has densely populated areas in the fringe area that should be annexed in order to provide growth to the Town.
2. Housing is presented as a major problem with 30 percent needing repairs of some type. The Town has created a Building Inspection Department to enforce housing, plumbing and electrical codes.
3. Dependence in Morehead City and Carteret County on tourism presents some problems. Seasonal employment and unemployment must be dealt with. The winter quarters are times of increased unemployment since this is not the tourist season. Carteret County and Morehead City are fortunate to have county and city organizations set up that can help with these problems. Organizations in this category include the Carteret County Chamber of Commerce and Carteret County Economic Development Commission.
4. The dependence of Morehead City and Carteret County on military and governmental agencies and installations must also be viewed as a problem that could alter the economy of the entire County. Cherry Point and the Morehead City State Port Authority are both important factors in Morehead City's economy.
5. Morehead City must provide better paying jobs in order to halt this out-migration. This will be difficult since there are no large pools of skilled labor in the County.
6. Retail sales will continue to rise as long as tourism remains at its present and projected rate, however, Morehead City should try to include some diversification to support the local people should there be a decline in tourism.

An effort has been made throughout this update to provide more recent data and to analyze this data in view of the present and future. How important this report is will be determined in larger part by the Town of Morehead

City and its leaders. Morehead City is fortunate to have a Board of Town Commissioners that is interested in and supports planning. The Morehead City Planning Board is active and providing a viable program for planning in Morehead City. It is hoped that this report will be used in its entirety.

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